



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 517

January Session, 2013

Substitute Senate Bill No. 466

Senate, April 16, 2013

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. GERRATANA of the 6th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES FOR PHYSICIANS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 20-10b of the general
2 statutes are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective July 1, 2013*):

4 (b) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (d), (e) and (f) of
5 this section, a licensee applying for license renewal shall earn a
6 minimum of fifty contact hours of continuing medical education
7 within the preceding twenty-four-month period. Such continuing
8 medical education shall (1) be in an area of the physician's practice; (2)
9 reflect the professional needs of the licensee in order to meet the health
10 care needs of the public; and (3) during the first renewal period in
11 which continuing medical education is required and not less than once
12 every six years thereafter, include at least one contact hour of training
13 or education in each of the following topics: (A) Infectious diseases,
14 including, but not limited to, acquired immune deficiency syndrome

15 and human immunodeficiency virus, (B) risk management, (C) sexual
 16 assault, (D) domestic violence, [and] (E) cultural competency, and (F)
 17 behavioral health. For purposes of this section, qualifying continuing
 18 medical education activities include, but are not limited to, courses
 19 offered or approved by the American Medical Association, American
 20 Osteopathic Medical Association, Connecticut Hospital Association,
 21 Connecticut State Medical Society, county medical societies or
 22 equivalent organizations in another jurisdiction, educational offerings
 23 sponsored by a hospital or other health care institution or courses
 24 offered by a regionally accredited academic institution or a state or
 25 local health department. The commissioner may grant a waiver for not
 26 more than ten contact hours of continuing medical education for a
 27 physician who: [(1)] (i) Engages in activities related to the physician's
 28 service as a member of the Connecticut Medical Examining Board,
 29 established pursuant to section 20-8a; [(2)] (ii) engages in activities
 30 related to the physician's service as a member of a medical hearing
 31 panel, pursuant to section 20-8a; or [(3)] (iii) assists the department
 32 with its duties to boards and commissions as described in section 19a-
 33 14.

34 (c) Each licensee applying for license renewal pursuant to section
 35 19a-88 shall sign a statement attesting that the licensee has satisfied the
 36 continuing education requirements of subsection (b) of this section on
 37 a form prescribed by the department. Each licensee shall retain records
 38 of attendance or certificates of completion that demonstrate
 39 compliance with the continuing education requirements of subsection
 40 (b) of this section for a minimum of [three] six years following the year
 41 in which the continuing education activities were completed and shall
 42 submit such records or certificates to the department for inspection not
 43 later than forty-five days after a request by the department for such
 44 records or certificates.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2013	20-10b(b) and (c)
-----------	--------------	-------------------

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill does not result in a fiscal impact to the Department of Public Health (DPH) as it is not anticipated to alter the number of physicians licensed by DPH. The bill expands continuing education topics for physicians to include behavioral health and requires continuing training or education during the first license renewal period and not less than once every six years thereafter.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 466*****AN ACT CONCERNING CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES FOR PHYSICIANS.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill reduces the frequency with which physicians must take mandatory topics for continuing medical education (CME), and adds behavioral health to the list of such topics. The mandatory topics currently include infectious diseases, risk management, sexual assault, domestic violence, and cultural competency.

Under current law, physicians must take at least one contact hour (50 minutes) of CME in each mandatory topic every two years. The bill instead requires one contact hour in each such topic during the first renewal period for which CME is required (the second license renewal), and once every six years after that.

The bill makes a corresponding change by requiring physicians to retain CME attendance records or certificates of completion for at least six years, rather than three years.

By law, physicians applying for license renewal must have completed at least 50 contact hours of CME during the previous 24 months. Physicians are exempt from CME requirements during their first license renewal.

Because the bill applies to current registration periods, it appears that a physician nearing the end of his or her first CME cycle when the bill takes effect would have to comply with the new behavioral health requirement during that cycle (e.g., a physician whose second license renewal period was set to expire on August 1 would have a month to complete one contact hour in behavioral health).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2013

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 27 Nay 0 (04/02/2013)